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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Larson et al. Confirmation No.: 7146
Serial No.: 10/645,136 Art Unit: 3732
Filed: August 20, 2003 Examiner: To be assigned
For: GUIDED RETRCTOR AND Attorney Docket No: 8932-973-999
METHODS OF USE

REQUEST FOR STATUS OF APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The above-identified patent application was filed on August 20, 2003. To date, no office action on the merits has been issued. It has been almost two years since the application was filed. Moreover, a continuation-in-part of the above-identified patent application (Serial No. 10/734,546, filed December 12, 2003) already received an office action on the merits several months ago. Therefore, please advise the undersigned of the status of the application. In particular, please advise of the expected date for receipt of the first office action.

If there are any questions regarding this request or the application in general, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 11, 2005

54,390

(Reg. No.)

~~Brent P. Ray~~
JONES DAY
272 East 41st Street
New York, New York 10017
(212) 326-3939



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:
 - 1a. A list of all patents, publications, applications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office.
 - 1b. A legible copy of :
 - Each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed on the PTO-1449;
 - For each cited pending U.S. application filed before June 30, 2003, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application, or portion of the application which caused it to be listed on the PTO-1449 including any claims directed to that portion;
 - all other information or portion which caused it to be listed on the PTO-1449.
 - 1c. An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or PCT International Search Report.
 - 1d. Explanations of relevancy (ATTACHMENT 1(d), hereto) or English language abstracts of the non-English language publications.
 - 1e. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(ii), copies of the cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not submitted herewith.
2. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b):
 - Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d);
 - Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application;

Before the mailing of the first Office action on the merits;

Before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.

3. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), but before the mailing date of any of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

(Check either Item 3a or 3b)

3a. The Certification Statement in Item 5 below is applicable. Accordingly, no fee is required.

3b. The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) is:

enclosed

to be charged to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

(Item 3b to be checked if any reference known for more than 3 months)

4. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d) after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), but on or before the date of payment of the issue fee.

The Certification Statement in Item 5 below is applicable.

The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is:

enclosed.

to be charged to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013

5. Certification Statement (applicable if Item 3a or Item 4 is checked)

(Check either Item 5a or 5b)

5a. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1), it is certified that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

5b. Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and the communication was not **received** by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

5c. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d), each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and the communication was not **received** by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

6. This application is a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) or (d).

(Check appropriate Items 6a, 6b and/or 6c)

6a. A Petition to Withdraw from issue under 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(5) is concurrently filed herewith.

6b. Copies of publications listed on Form PTO-1449 from prior application Serial No. , filed on , of which this application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120, are not being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d).

6c. Copies of the publications listed on Form PTO-1449 were not previously cited in prior application Serial No. , filed on , and are provided herewith.

7. This is a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. (Check Item 7a)

7a. This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(f) supplements the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 14, 2003. A bona fide attempt was made to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98, but inadvertent omissions were made. These omissions have been corrected herein. Accordingly, additional time is requested so that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement can be considered as if properly filed on November 14, 2003.

8. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:

(Check Item 8a, 8b, or 8c)

8a. satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed English language copy of the PCT International Search Report or the search report from a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

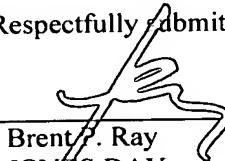
8b. set forth in the application.

8c. enclosed as an attachment hereto.

9. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee required or credit any overpayment for this Information Disclosure Statement and/or Petition to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

10. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability and no representation is made that a search has been made (other than a search report of a foreign counterpart application or PCT International Search Report if submitted herewith). 37 C.F.R. §§1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

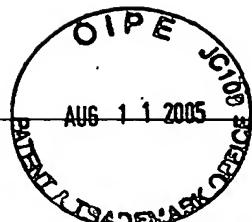


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54,390

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Date: August 11, 2005



LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO. 8932-973-999 APPLICATION NO. 10/645,136

APPLICANT Larson et al.

FILING DATE August 20, 2003 GROUP 3732

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
A01	2005/0090899 A1	04/28/2005	DiPoto			
A02	2005/0080418	04/14/2005	Simonson et al.			
A03	2005/0070765 A1	03/31/2005	Abelgany et al.			
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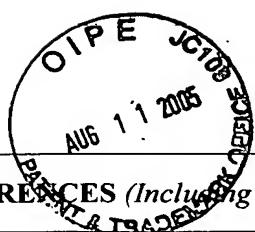
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	B02	FR 2 692 468	12/24/1993	France			ABS		
	B03	WO 98/12960	04/02/1998	PCT					
	B04	WO 96/02195	02/01/1996	PCT					
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	B06	EP 0 792 620 A2	03/09/1997	Europe					
	B07	EP 0 455 282 B1	11/06/1991	Europe					
	B08								
	B09								



OTHER REFERENCES (*Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.*)

	C01	
	C02	
	C03	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	